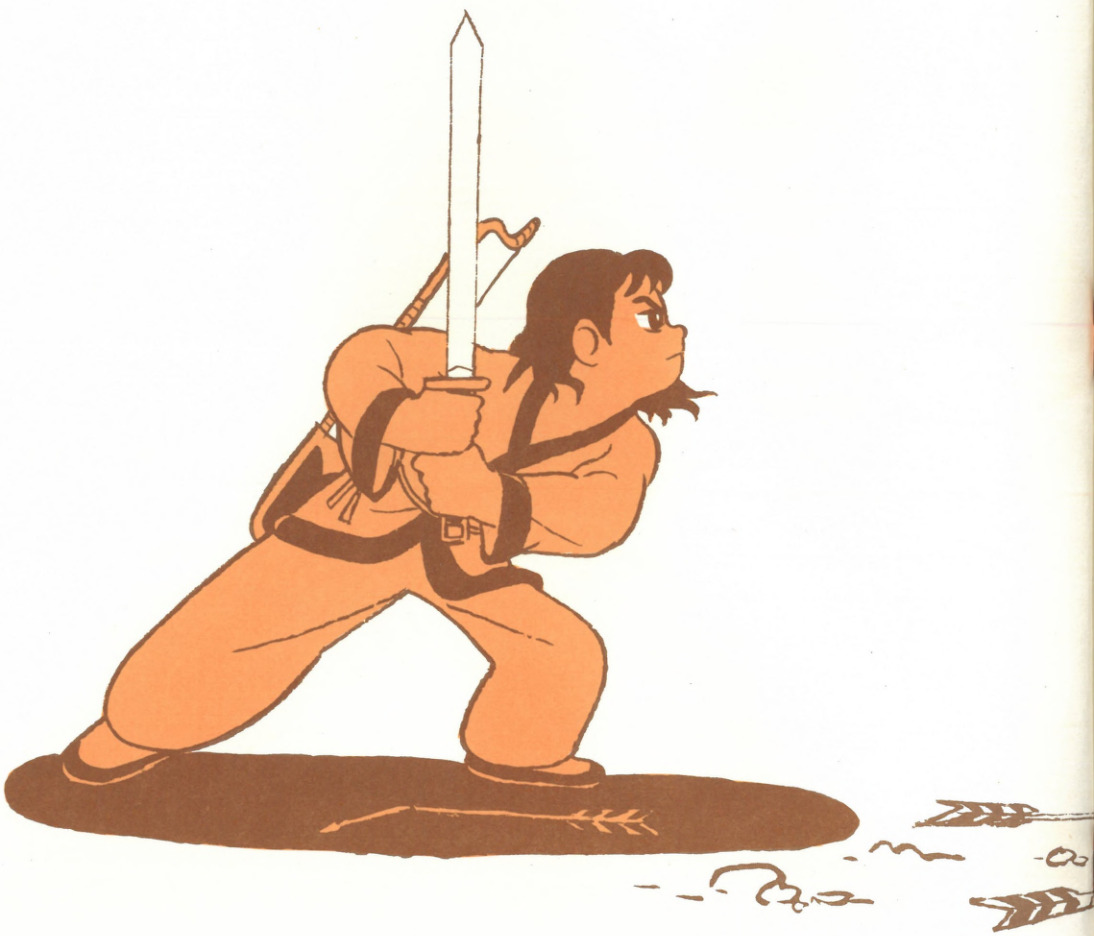
Illustrated Story Book

Boys Wipe Out Bandits

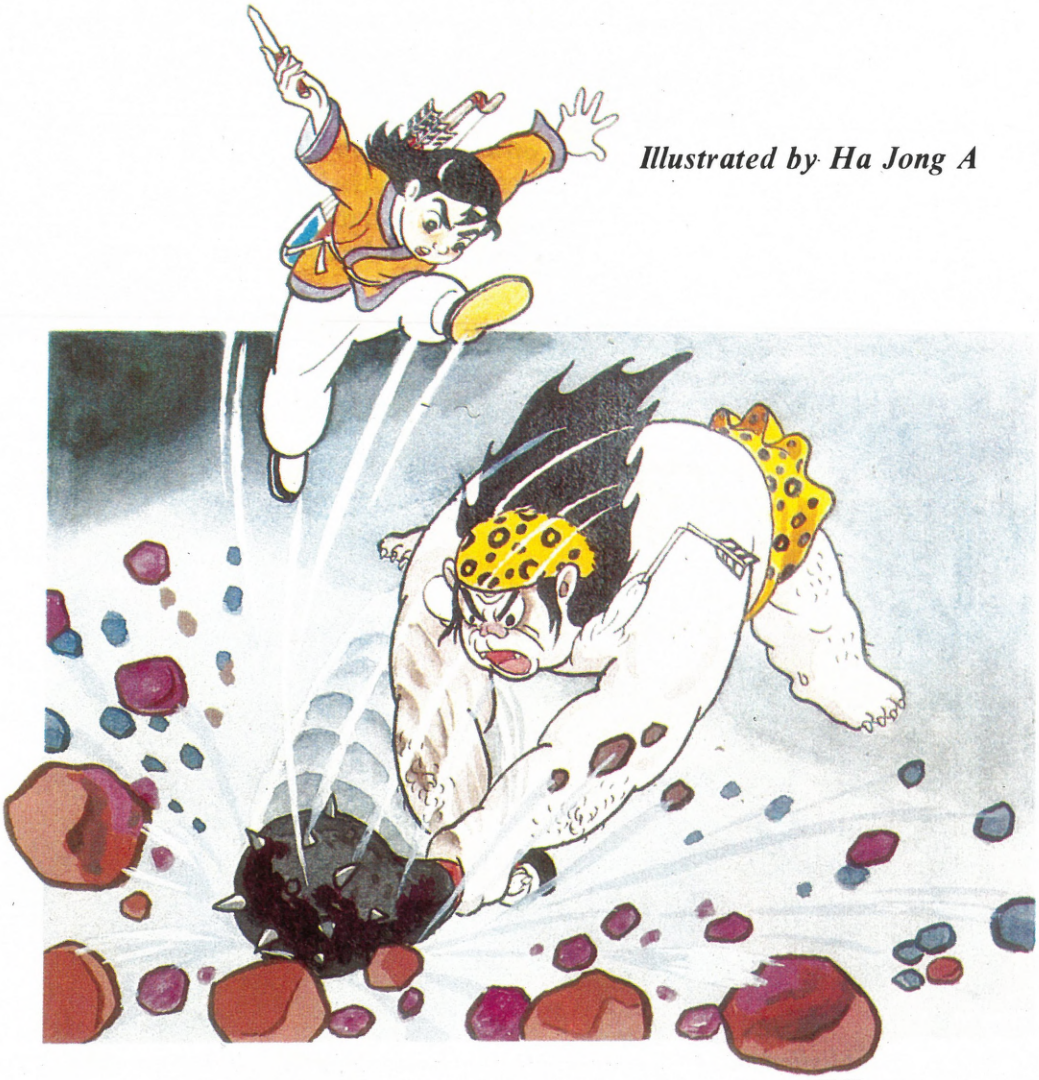
Kum Song Youth Publishing House
1989



Illustrated Story Book

Boys Wipe Out Bandits

Illustrated by Ha Jong A



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Published in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Editor's Note

This Illustrated Story Book is picturized from a fable told by the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il.

One day in his younger days the dear leader told his friends about a clever boy who wiped out a group of bandits that had attacked his village. So, he taught them a truth that one can defeat any enemy if one works one's wit and musters up courage even when very young.

Once upon a time there lived in the Hyangchon Village a brave and clever boy called Ye Dong.

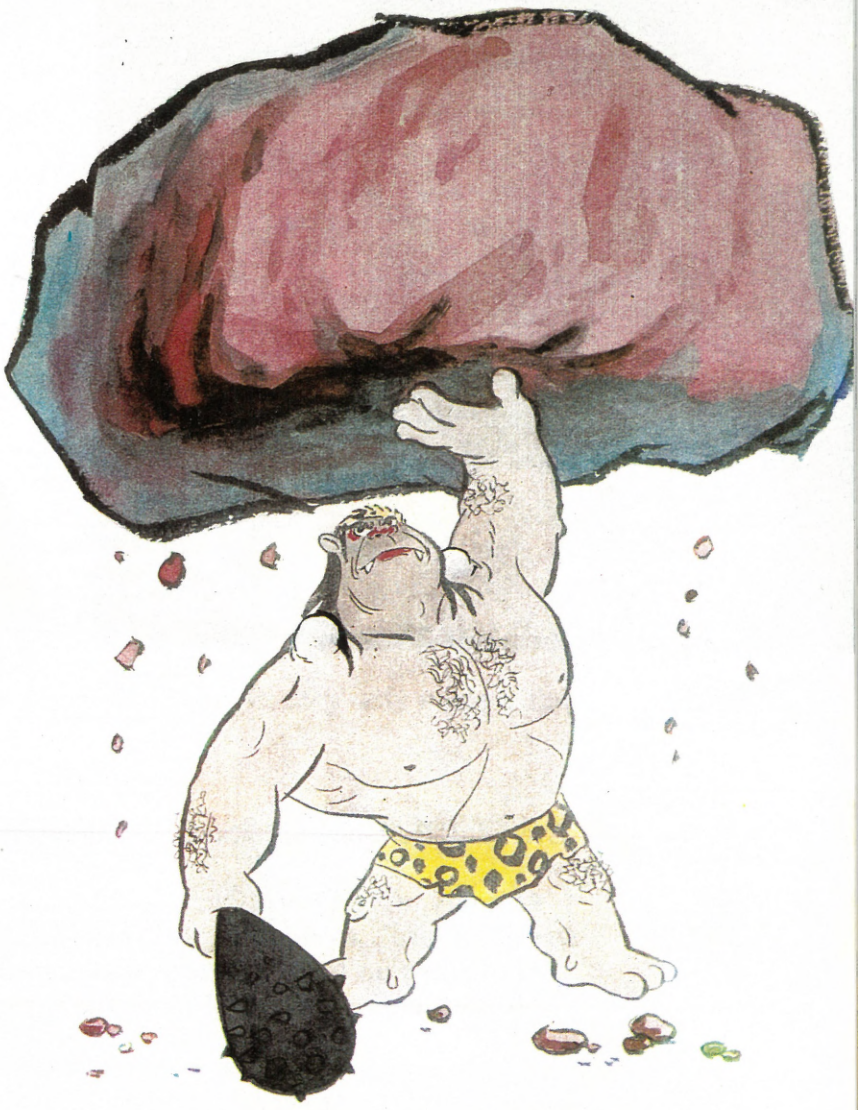
A bumper crop visited his cosy Hyangchon Village.

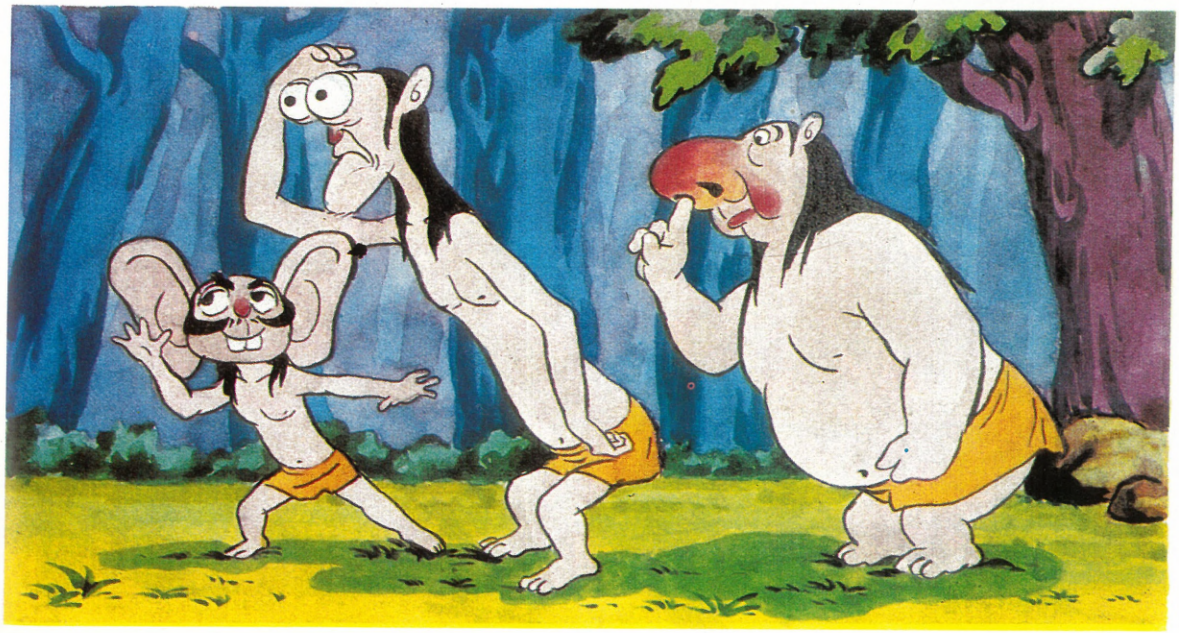
A group of bandits who hid out in a high mountain were watching for a chance to attack the village.

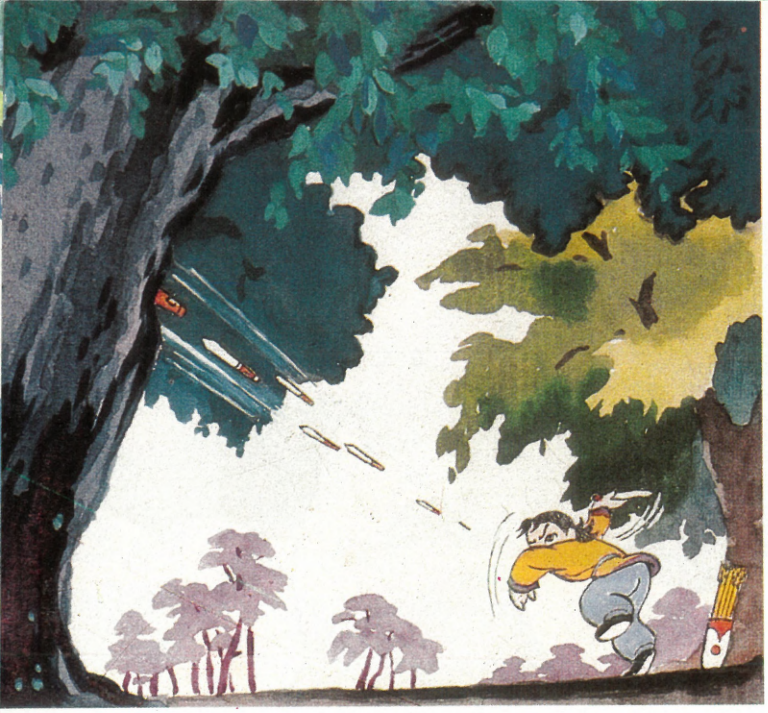
There in their group were some monster-like creatures.

Captain of the bandits was of a giant strength. He had two big wens on both sides of his neck. He could easily lift up any large rocks.

Among them were the three other creatures named "Quick Ear" who could catch any sound even at a distance of ten ris (four kilometres) with his ear about the size of trumpet, "Nose Wind Maker" who could draw in and out wind with his long nose and "Large Eyed" who could get a distant view with his protruded eyes.





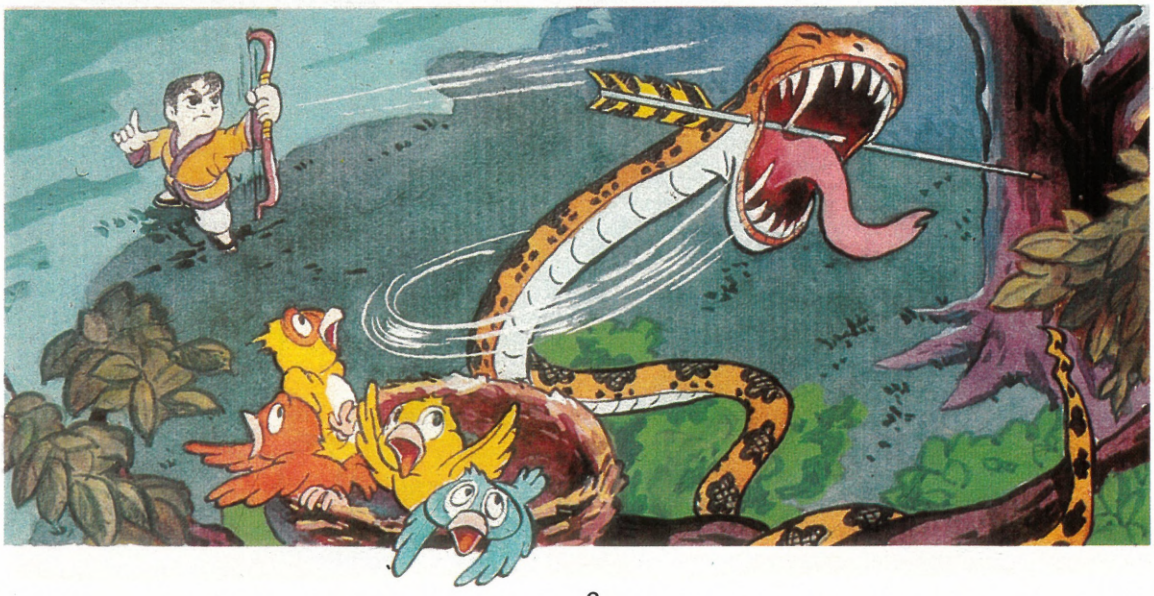


Everyday Ye Dong did practice in shooting arrows and other military arts.

One day, when he was training himself among willows on the bank of a stream, a bird's strange, tearful voice was heard from above his head.

He looked up to find a large snake stealing its way up to its nest.

He shot an arrow. Whiz! It hit the snake right in the head.



At that time some boys ran up to him, calling him.

"Hey, Ye Dong, a terrible accident has happened. Your ox is fighting now fiercely with Pa U's"

"Is that true? Let's go quickly and see."

On the lawn at the entrance to the village two oxen were fighting, bumping their heads against each other.

None of the villagers ventured to stop it, they only made a fuss.

Ye Dong took out a flute and played on it.

The sound of the flute reached the ear of his ox. After some hesitation the ox came running to him. Ye Dong stroke its face and jumped on it.

In the meantime, the captain of the bandits told off Large Eyed and Quick Ear to feel the village.

Ye Dong and Sun Dol were having a sword-play match against each other then, some other boys watching breathlessly.

At last, Ye Dong struck the sword out of Sun Dol's hand.

"Hurrah! Ye Dong won the game," the boys shouted delightfully, clapping their hands.

The two creatures, Large Eyed and Quick Ear appeared behind a big rock overlooking the village.

They spied upon every movement in the village from behind the rock.

The drill was over. Ye Dong who was wiping the perspiration from his face said with surprise:

"Look, Sun Dol! Brothers are seen going hunting."

"I wish I could go together with them."

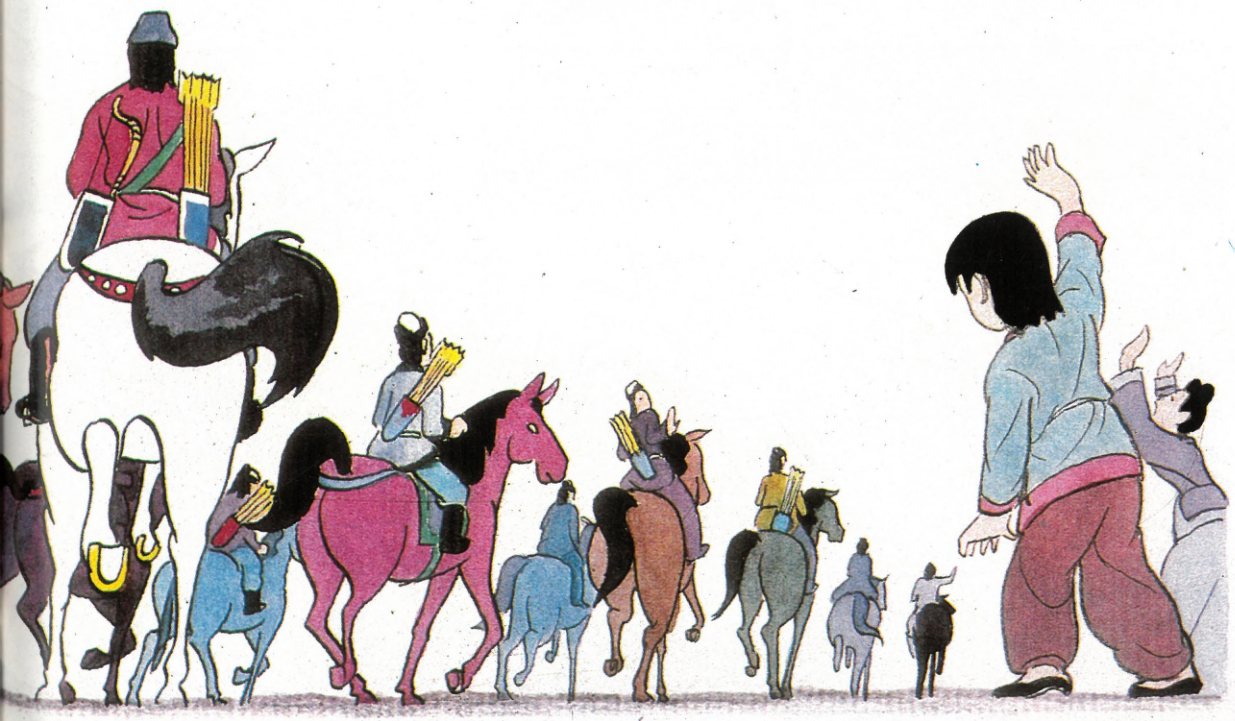
"We're far behind brothers in all respects. We need more training."

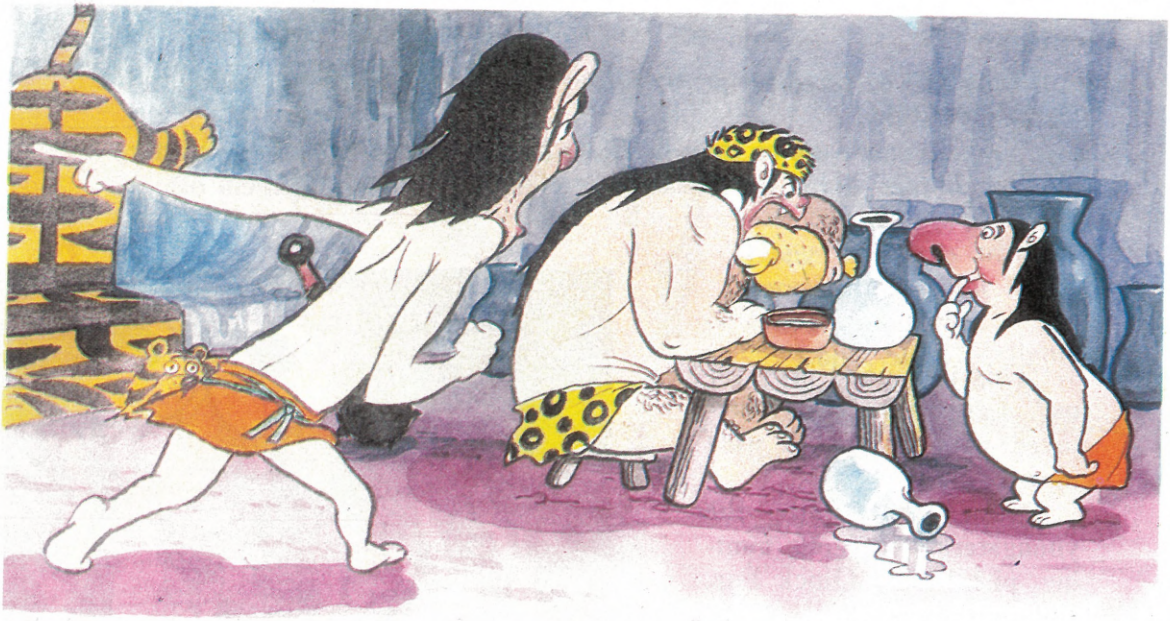
Large Eyed fixed his protruded eyes on the village. Everything in it came in sight.

Young men were on their way to a hunting expedition; noisy clatters of their horses' hoofs were heard and children were seeing them off.

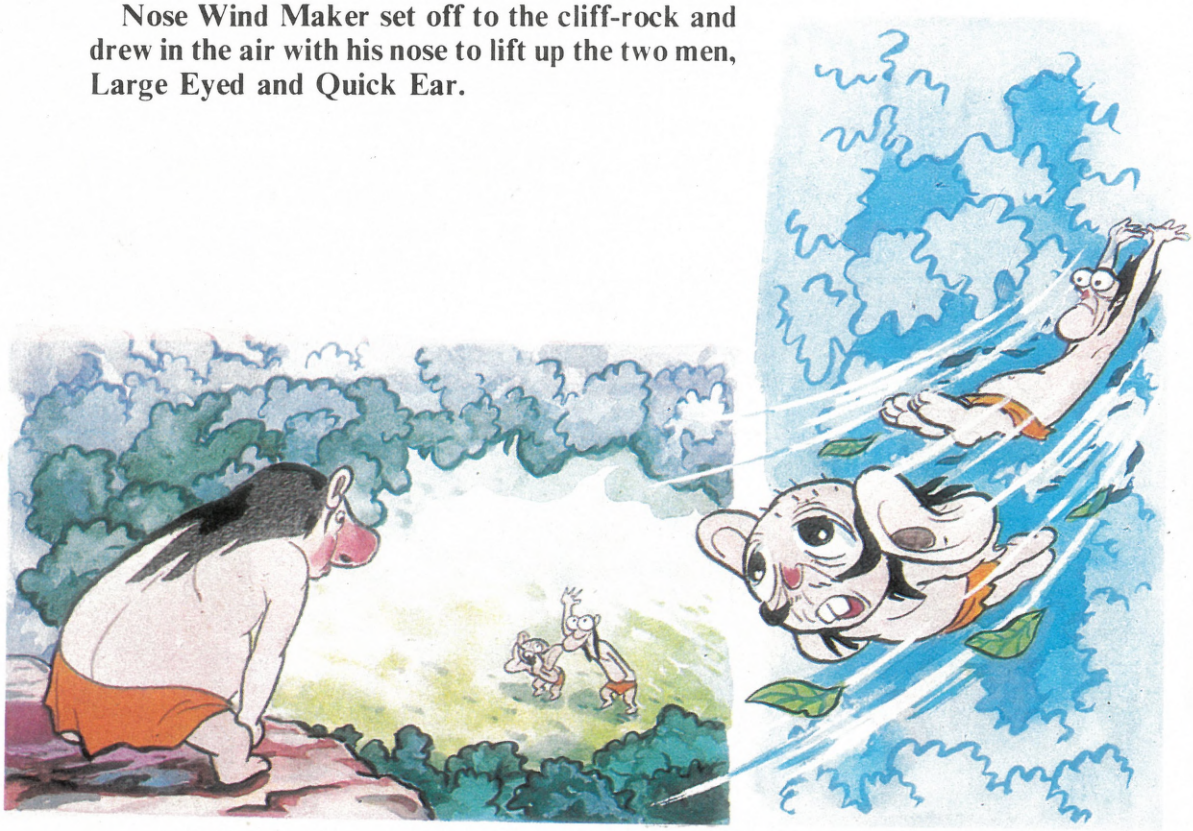
"This is a good prey for us." Large Eyed was overjoyed with his mouth wide open.

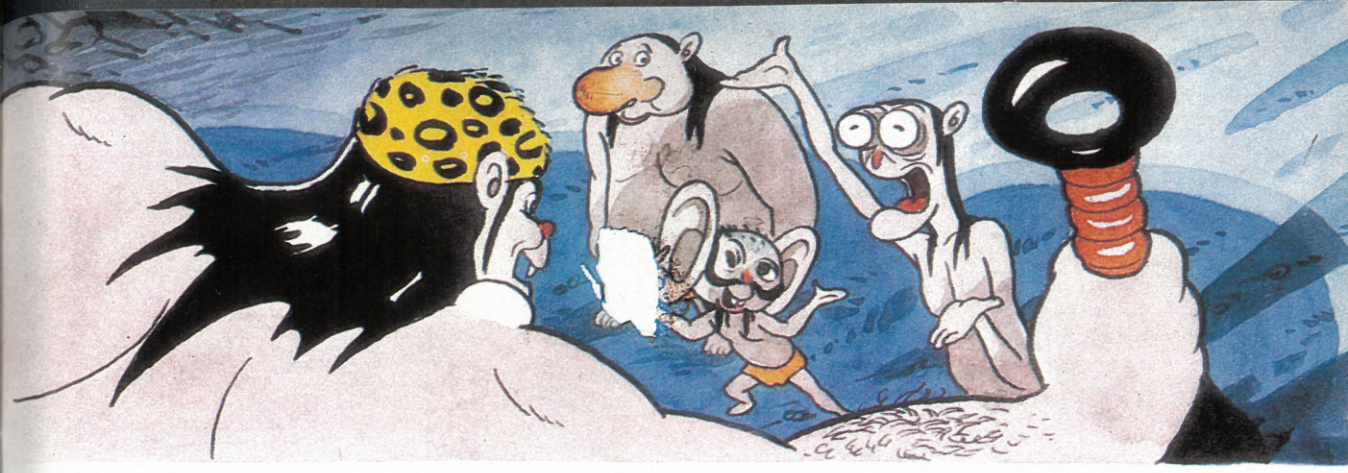
"Now that all the youngsters were gone hunting, pish," said Quick Ear, slapping his lap.





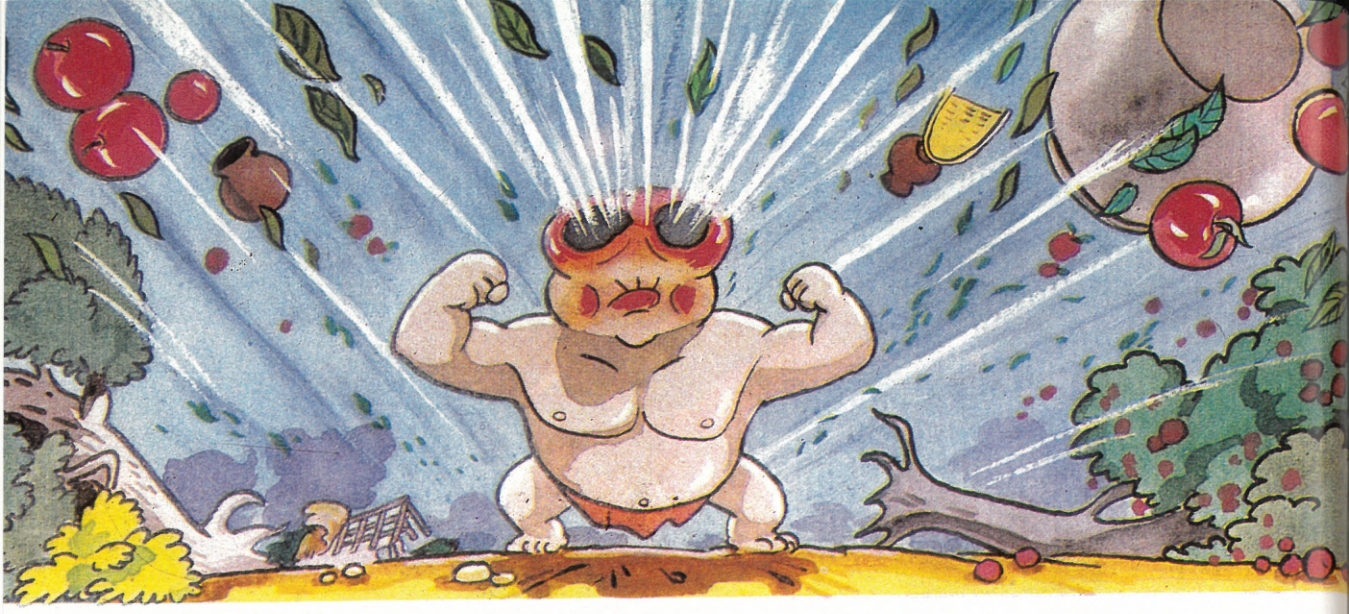
In a dismal cave the captain was gnawing the meat off a bone.
One of his men hurried in and said:
"Sir, someone is calling us at the foot of the cliff-rock."
"Nose Wind Maker! Go and take them here."
Nose Wind Maker set off to the cliff-rock and drew in the air with his nose to lift up the two men, Large Eyed and Quick Ear.





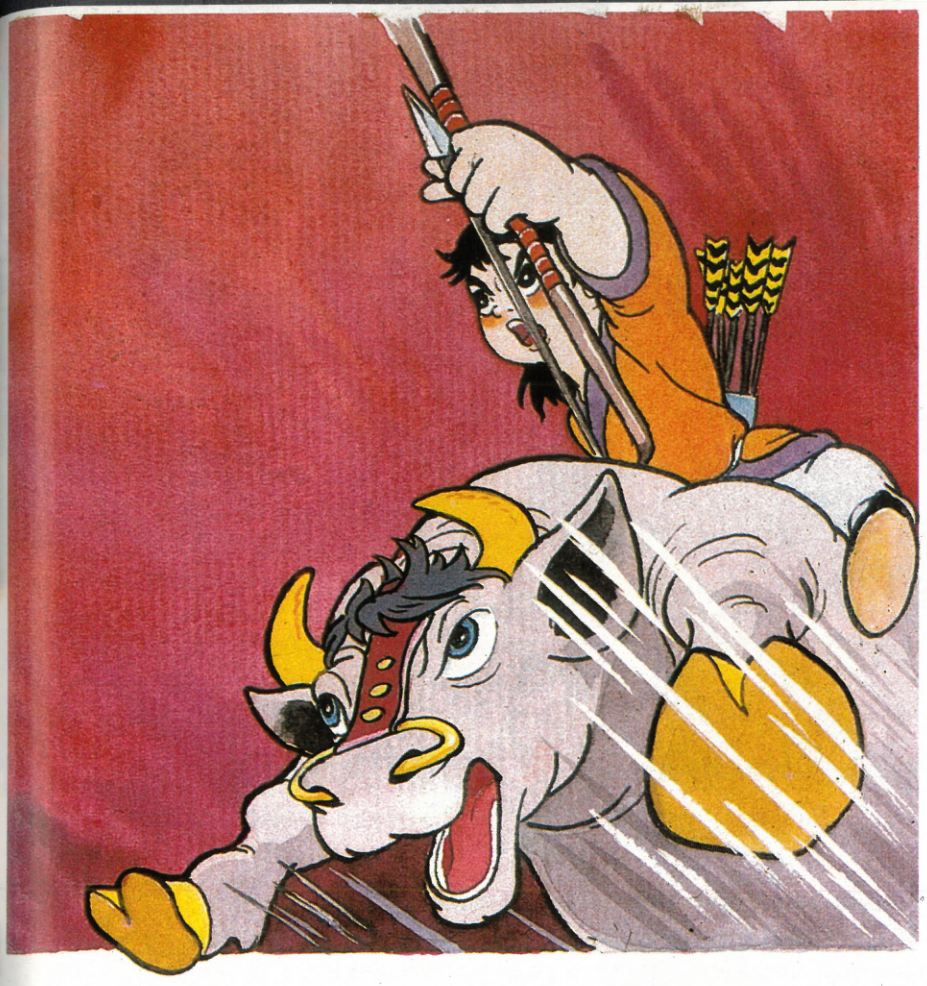
"All but some old ones and children stayed away from the village, sir," they reported to the captain.

"Now or never. Start at once," the captain ordered out his men, holding up an iron club in his hand and the bandits broke in the village.



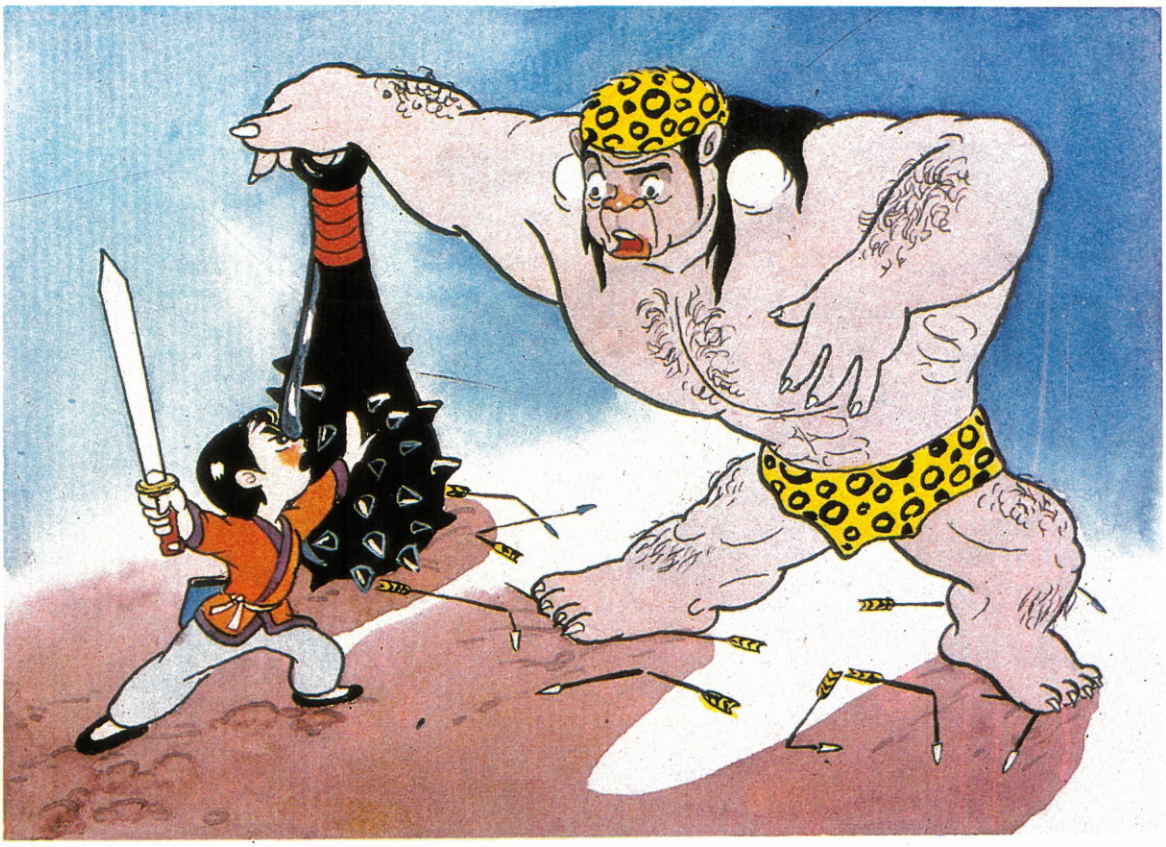
Nose Wind Maker drew out wind and the armful trees and fruit trees fell at once.

And the captain ran about, wielding his iron club.



Riding on his ox, Ye Dong shot arrows at him but they were broken just on his neck.

Ye Dong sprang at him with a drawn sword.



Nose Wind Maker found him and drew out wind.
Ye Dong was blown off down in the distant bush in spite of himself.
The once beautiful and rich village was now turned into a desert.
Villagers managed to escape into a mountain.

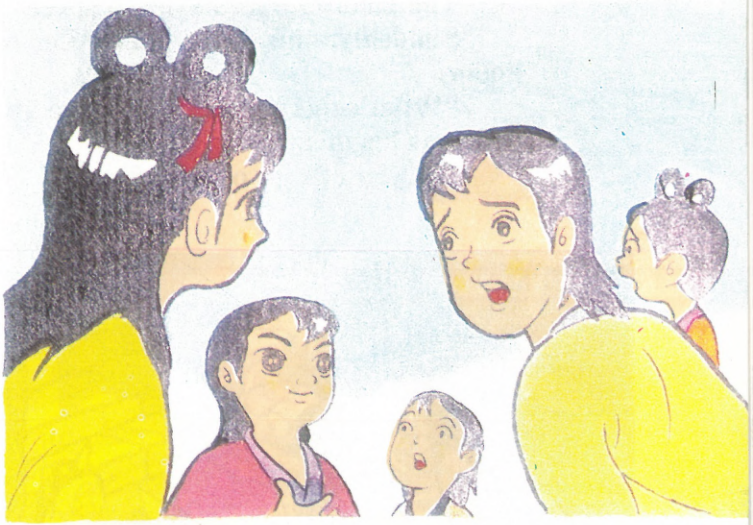
They were in despair horror-stricken. But Ye Dong brought together the village boys to discuss how to defeat bandits for themselves.

"I'm sure they must have weak points, the monsters of giant strength as they are. It's better to know first the weak points they have and then smash them."

"But how can we do it?" said Sun Dol in a quivering voice.

"I'll go into the den of bandits."

"What? You...?" Sun Dol and I Pun threw their surprised eyes upon him.



Sun Dol barred him from going.

"Ye Dong, it's better to go back."

"Sun Dol, the bandits have preyed upon our village. How can we sit with folded arms?"

"Then, let's go together," said Sun Dol.

"I'll go with you, too," said I Pun.

Now Ye Dong, Sun Dol and I Pun set off for the den.

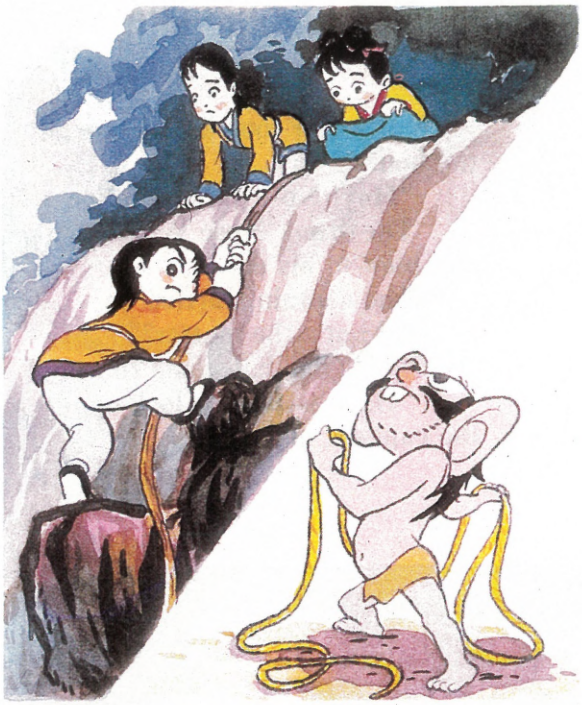
On their way to it, Ye Dong encouraged them, saying they would have a great strength if they plucked up their courage.

The bandits were having a spree.

Suddenly, one ear of Quick Ear was strained. He stopped to drink liquor.

"What's this noise? Hum, those little chaps are coming," he said and yelled at his men.

"Hey! Let's go out quickly."



Meanwhile Ye Dong, Sun Dol and I Pun carefully reached a turn of the Kom Rock.

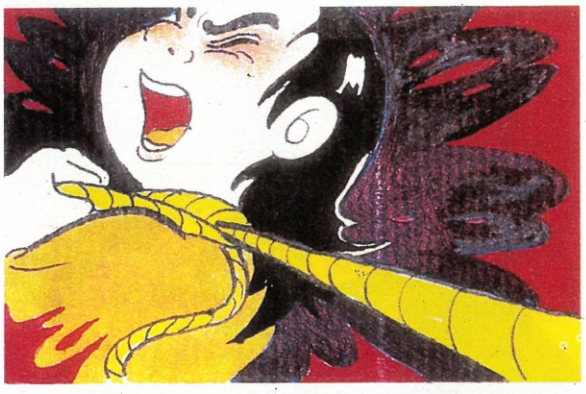
"How about going down the cliff from here, not taking this road?"

"Do you believe they are here?" Sun Dol looked around himself.

"Let me go down first," said Ye Dong. He climbed down the cliff on the arrowroot vines.

Quick Ear who was watching Ye Dong secretly in the woods jumped out with his men as soon as he reached the ground. Ye Dong scowled at him terribly, jumped and held on to a branch of a tree with a shout.

Quick Ear cast a rope agily to bind him up.



"Ha, ha! You don't know I can hear at a great distance."

On the top of the cliff Sun Dol and I Pun saw all this aghast.

Quick Ear took him away, all tied up, to the captain who was snoring the hours away.

"Hey! Nose Wind Maker, wake him up."

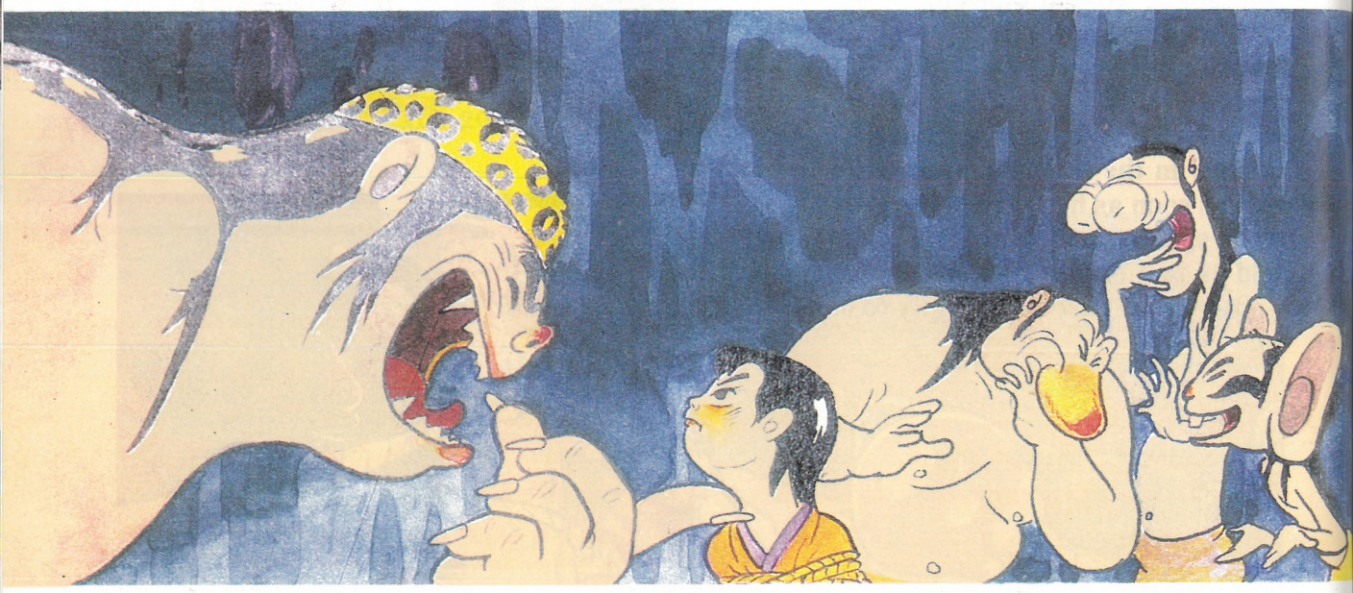
The drunk Nose Wind Maker walked up to the captain, staggering and blew in his ear.

The captain startled up.

"What's the matter?"

"This one has come to attack us, sir."

"Ha, ha, ha. You lock up this little rascal in the storeroom," shouted the captain, guffawing.



In the storeroom Ye Dong watched the movements of the bandits through the door crevice.

The captain sobered up, untied a bundle of jewels and greedily grasped a handful of them in his hands.

A gold ring rolled down to where Quick Ear was. He

promptly concealed it under the sole of his foot.

The captain looked around restlessly but could not find it.

"Who took it? Did you, Large Eyed?"

"No, sir. I can't see anything at night, you know."

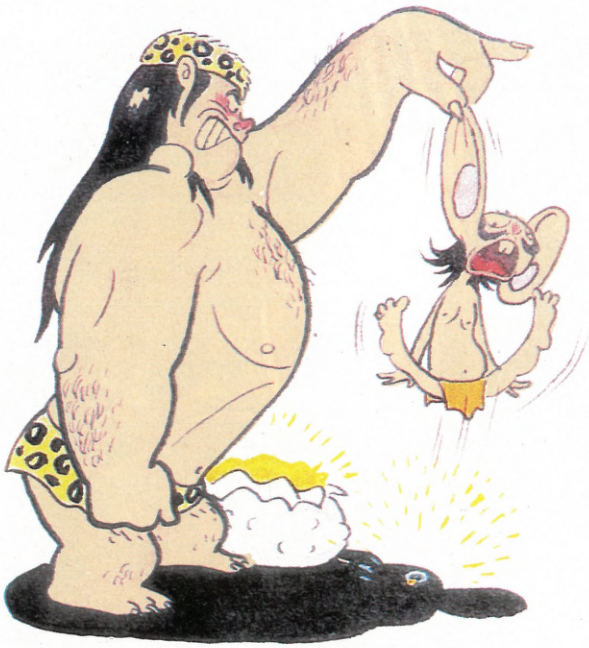
"And you, Quick Ear?"

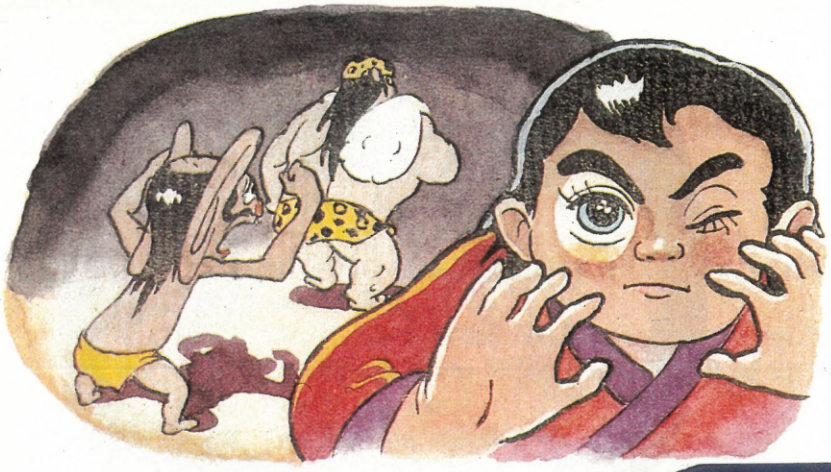
He pulled Quick Ear by the ear.

"Ouch! It's under the sole of my foot."

Taking advantage of this opportunity, Nose Wind Maker stuffed a handful of articles made of gold into his pocket.

Quick Ear complained of having been deprived of the gold ring.





"Hum. I pray those wens may get broken. Without them you are good for nothing."

Ye Dong thought and thought.

"That's it. They have such weak points. Now I must get out of this room by all means. Good! Through that lattice window."

But he could not get through it because it was too high for him.

He looked around for something in the storeroom and got a board.

He put it between the boxes like a lever and flew through the lattice window by stamping on it.

There was a crash and Quick Ear and his men sprang at him.

"Take him."

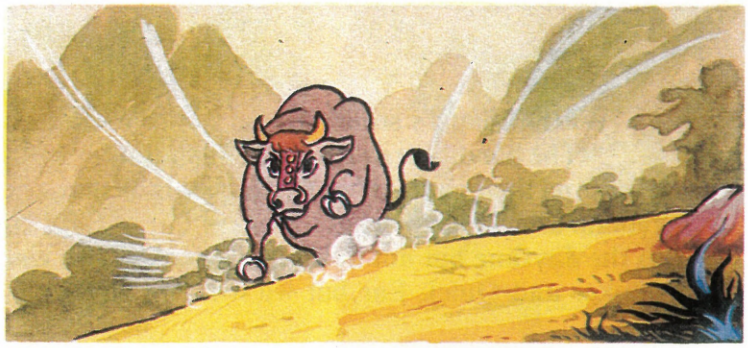
Ye Dong took out his flute and played it.

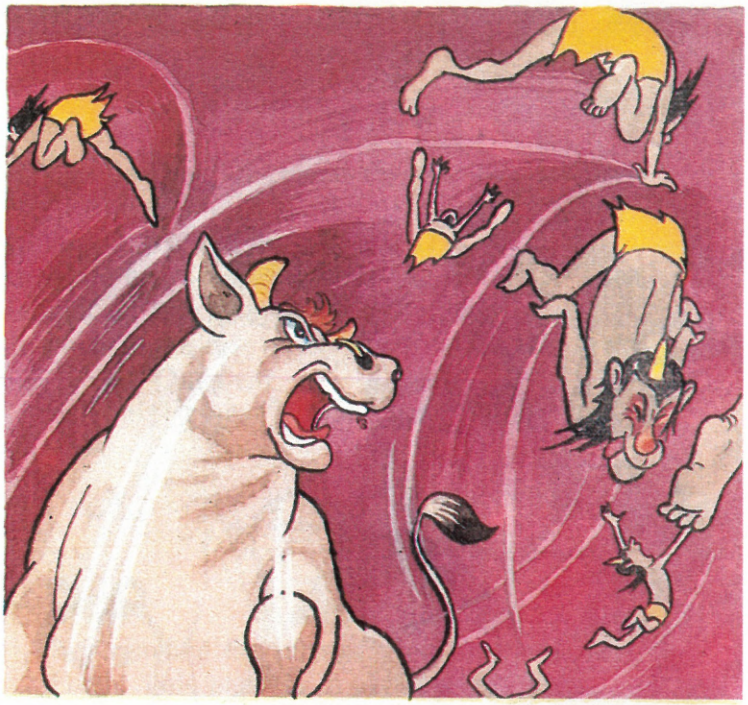
His ox came running to him, goring the bandits with its horns.

Ye Dong jumped on its back and ran away.

In the forest villagers were preparing for a fight against the bandits, practising shooting arrows and sharpening the spears.

"There comes Ye Dong!" cried Sun Dol, running up to him.





When villagers stood around him, he said:

"The bandits are on a spree and fighting with each other for property now. And their captain has two big wens on his neck. They say he would not remain alive if his wens got broken. Large Eyed can see the distant places in the daytime but not at night. There are two rascals named Nose Wind Maker and Quick Ear, but we will be able to easily finish them off."

With Sun Dol and I Pun, Ye Dong discussed the way to administer blow at the enemy.

"Well, how about killing Quick Ear first by trick?"

"Why, don't you know he hears any sound at the distance? Then, how?" asked Sun Dol, looking at him dubiously.

"I say he can be easily cheated because he has sharp ears. Let's do this way." Ye Dong whispered in Sun Dol's ear.

"Ye Dong, you have really clever head," said I Pun, smiling gently.

They reached the turn of the Kom Rock.
"Hush! This place is in his hearing range."

Ye Dong said in a loud voice intentionally:

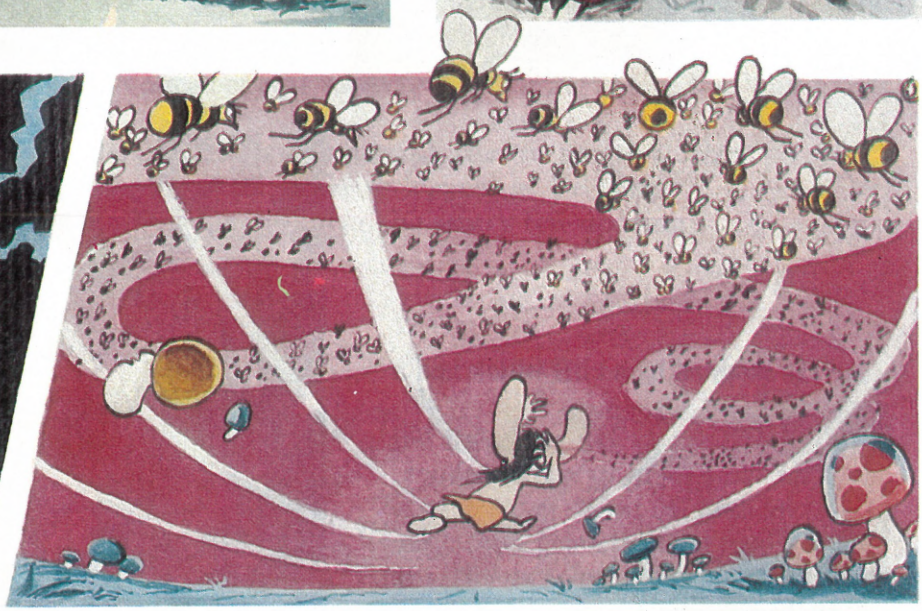
"I Pun, I've hidden a gold nugget in the empty trunk of zelkova tree down below. I'm afraid someone might have taken it."

"Don't worry too much. Who knew and took it?"

Quick Ear heard them out with strained ear and said to himself:

"What? A nugget of gold? I'll take it before others know. In this case no one will match me who have quick ears."

Quick Ear stealed out of their room.



He went stealthily up a hill. He found a zelkova tree there. Looking around restlessly, he put his hand into its hollow trunk and then his head for a gold nugget. Just at that moment frightened bees pounced upon him without mercy.

"Ouch!" He ran and ran, his both hands covering his head.

He stopped by a cliff which had a waterfall.

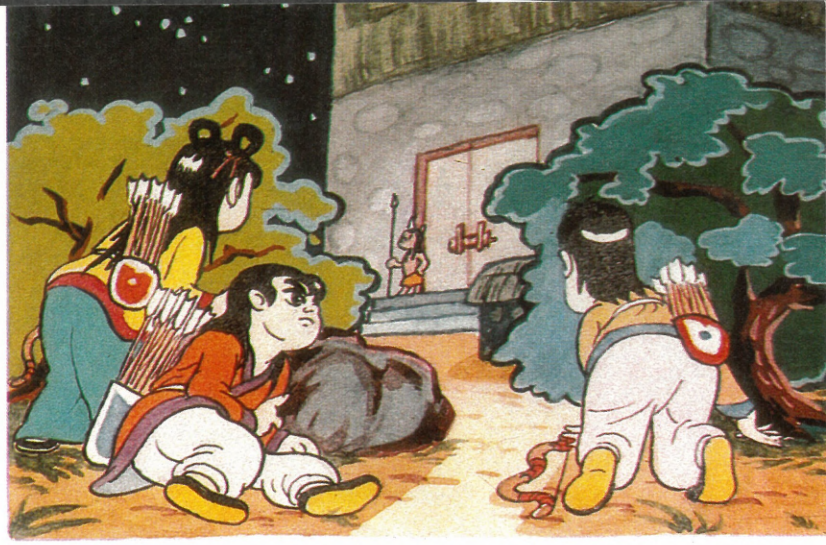
He jumped over the waterfall but his ear was caught by a tree branch. Thus he dangled on it.

Ye Dong came chasing him, agily climbed the tree and cut off the branch.

Quick Ear fell down into the waterfall, giving scream.

Late at night, Ye Dong, Sun Dol and I Pun got to the village secretly.

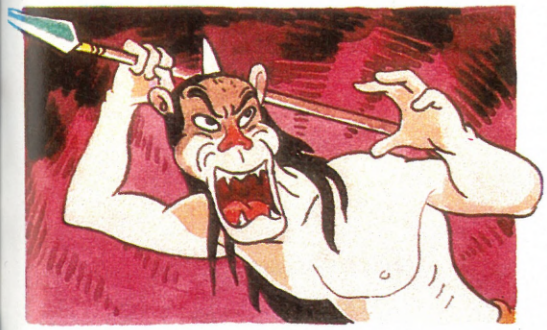
"That house over there is the house of monsters. Let's jump over the fence."

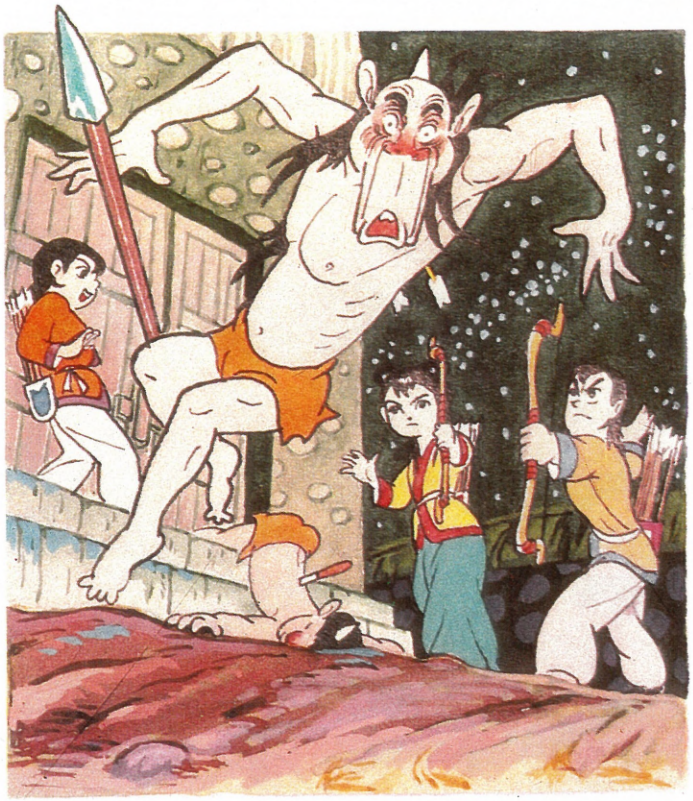


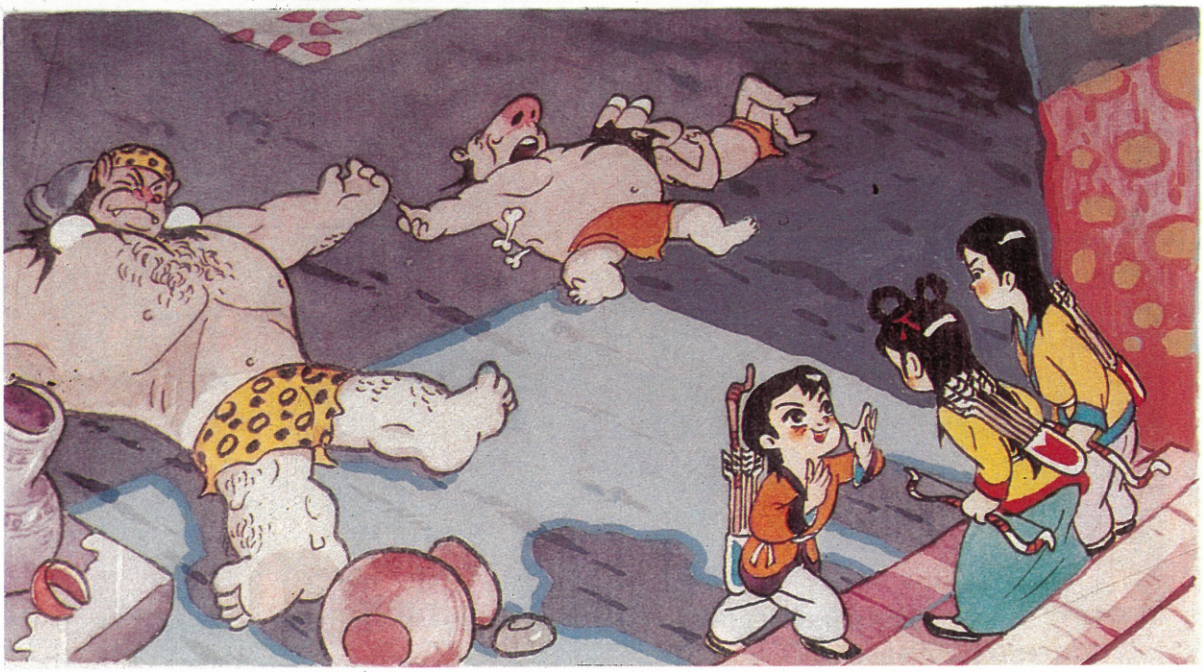
Ye Dong got on it ahead of others and threw a dagger at a sentry. The sentry collapsed.

At his signal, the two others also jumped over the fence. A sentry on duty noticed him and was about to throw a spear at Ye Dong.

Sun Dol and I Pun let arrows fly. The sentry fell to death.



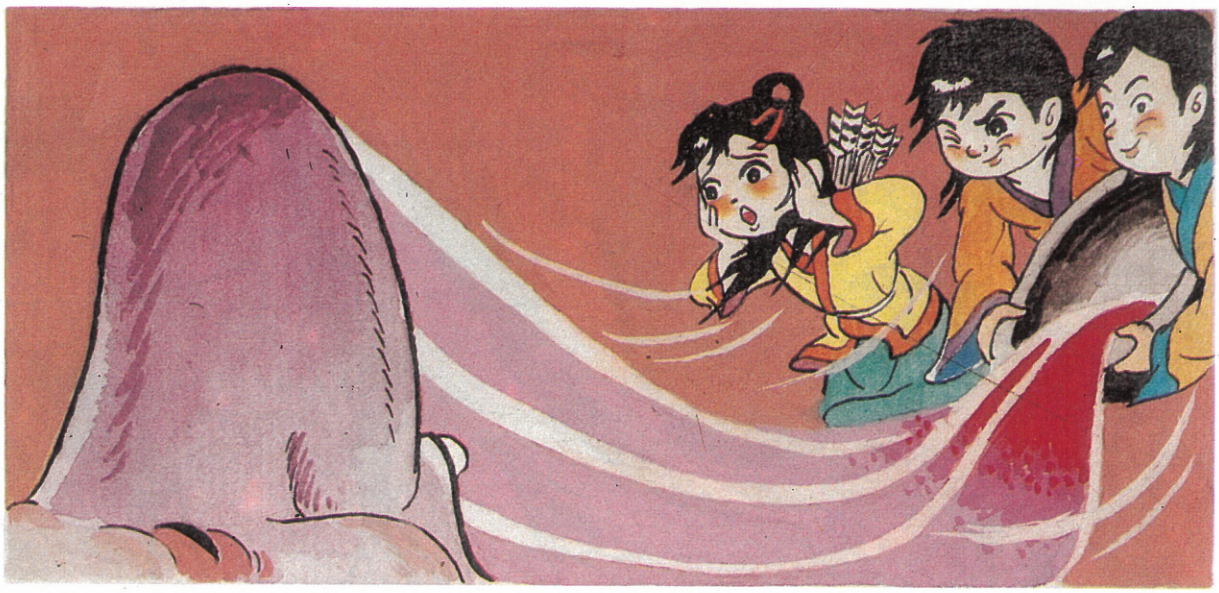




The bandits all got drunk as a fish.

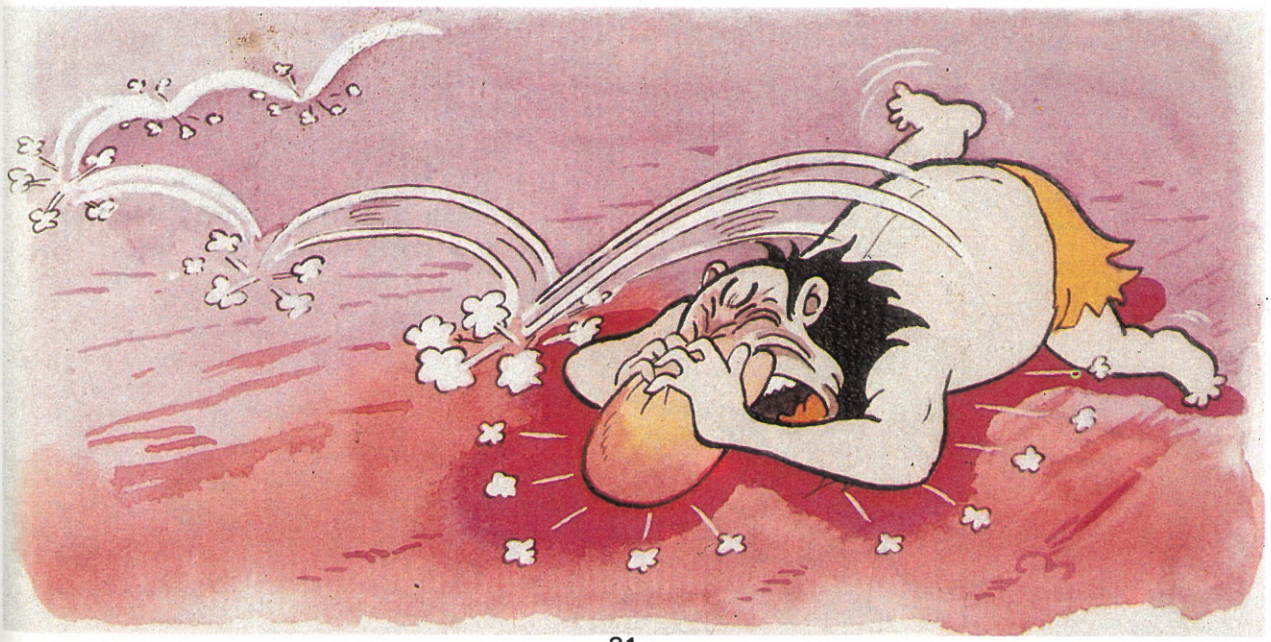
Ye Dong entered their room without a sound. He whispered to Sun Dol and I Pun:

"Do you see a large scooped wooden bowl full of powdered red pepper over there at the corner? Let's frighten Nose Wind Maker with it at first. Then it'll have effect on cheating Large Eyed."



They carried the bowl near Nose Wind Maker who was snoring, poured powdered pepper into his nostrils and hid themselves behind a pillar.

Nose Wind Maker inhaled to the full the powdered pepper. Unable to bear smart in his nose, he turned round and round, his hands covering the nose, sneezing repeatedly.

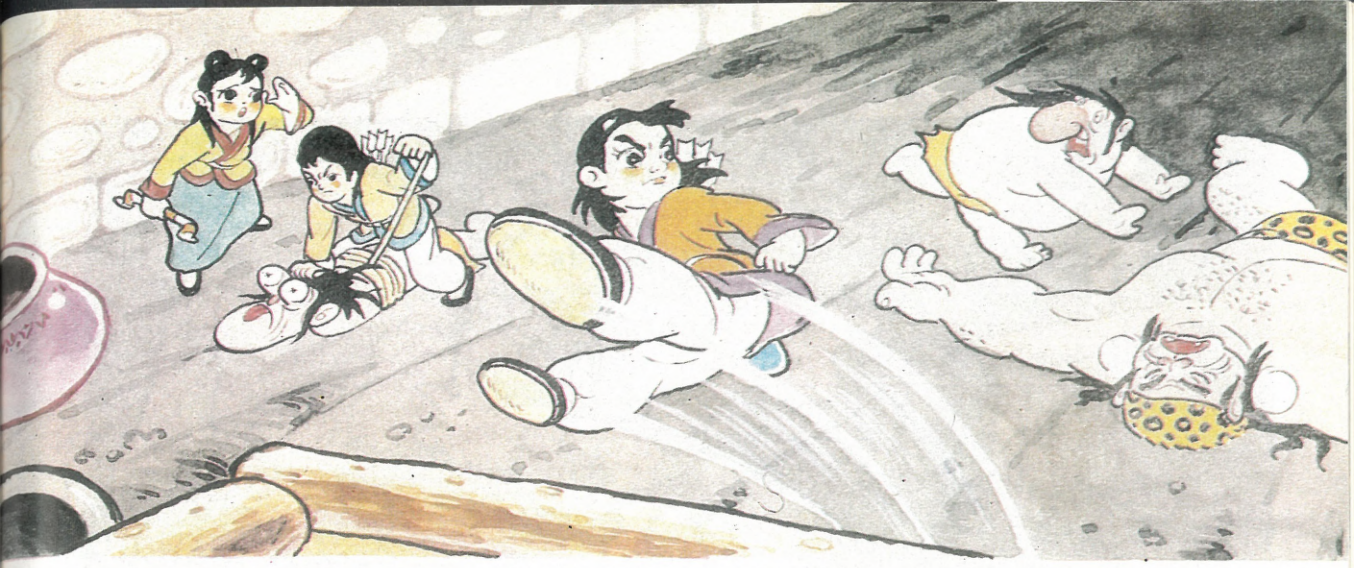


He emitted a formidable sneeze. This caused a heavy wind to rise.

Now Large Eyed who was sleeping dead drunk was blown high up in the air and fell down on to the ground.

"Oh! I'm dying! Ouch!"

His waist was broken. He was at a death's door.



"Come on, be quick! Leave the captain to me." Ye Dong urged with a wink. Sun Dol and I Pun ran to Large Eyed and tied him tightly with a rope.

Ye Dong jumped on a luggage box.

This time Nose Wind Maker blew in the ear of the captain who was still sleeping a sweet sleep.

"God damn you!" the captain yelled.

"Ouch! Sir, there, little rascals... ouch!" said Nose Wind Maker in a broken voice, having a fit of sneeze.

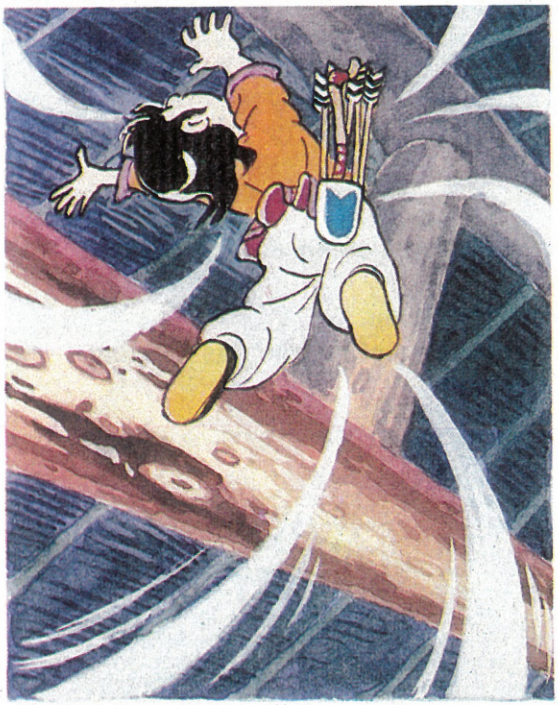
"Hey! Why the hell are you trembling with boys? Draw out wind."

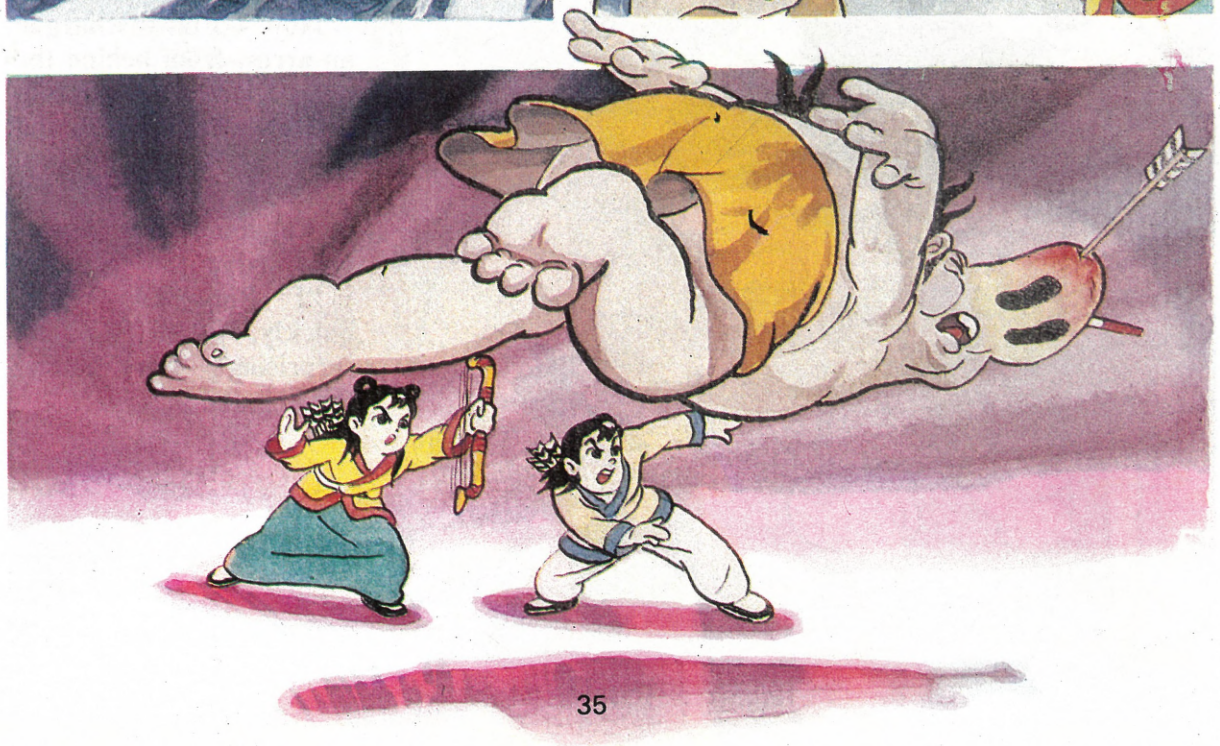
"But they had poured powdered pepper into my nose... ouch!"

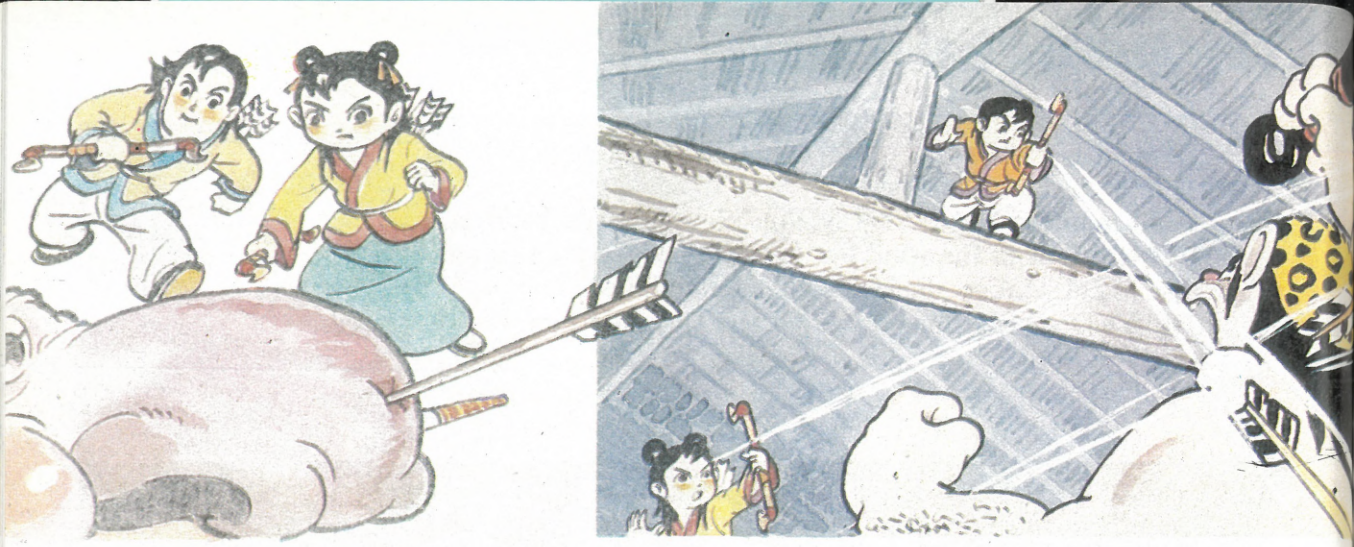
"You fool! Blow out at once."

On the luggage box Ye Dong threw a dagger at his wen.

At that moment Nose Wind Maker blew towards Ye Dong.
His body flew in the wind but he agily held on to a girder.
Nose Wind Maker pounced upon him again.
"Oh! Ye Dong is in danger," cried Sun Dol and I Pun, very surprised.



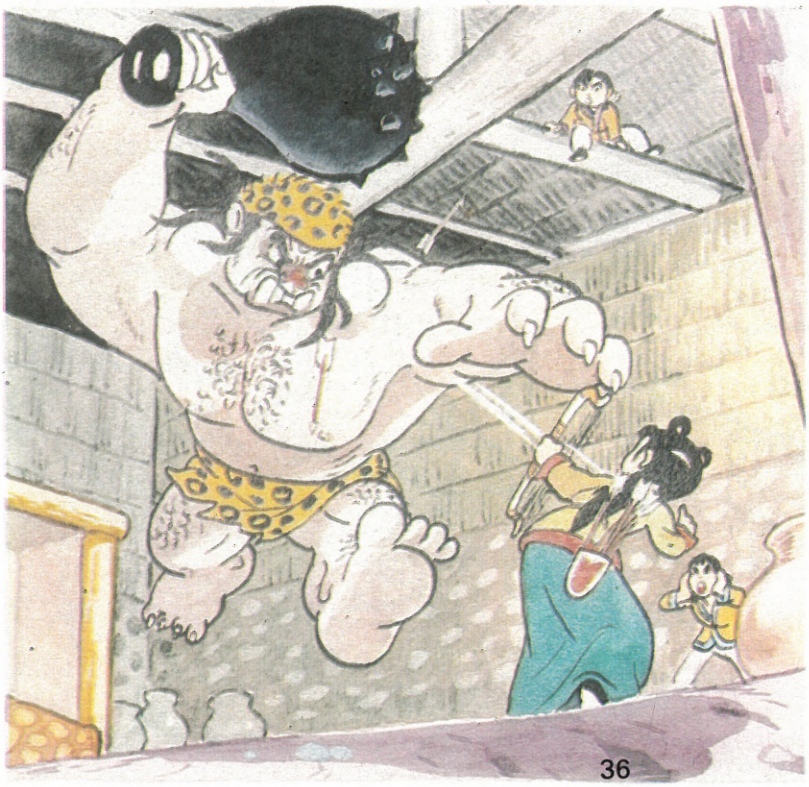




They threw daggers and shot arrows at the nose of Nose Wind Maker. None of them missed their mark.

Nose Wind Maker collapsed, giving a scream.

On the girder Ye Dong shot an arrow at the captain who was wielding an iron club but it went wild.



Now I Pun discharged an arrow from behind the pillar but the captain broke it with his club and cried:

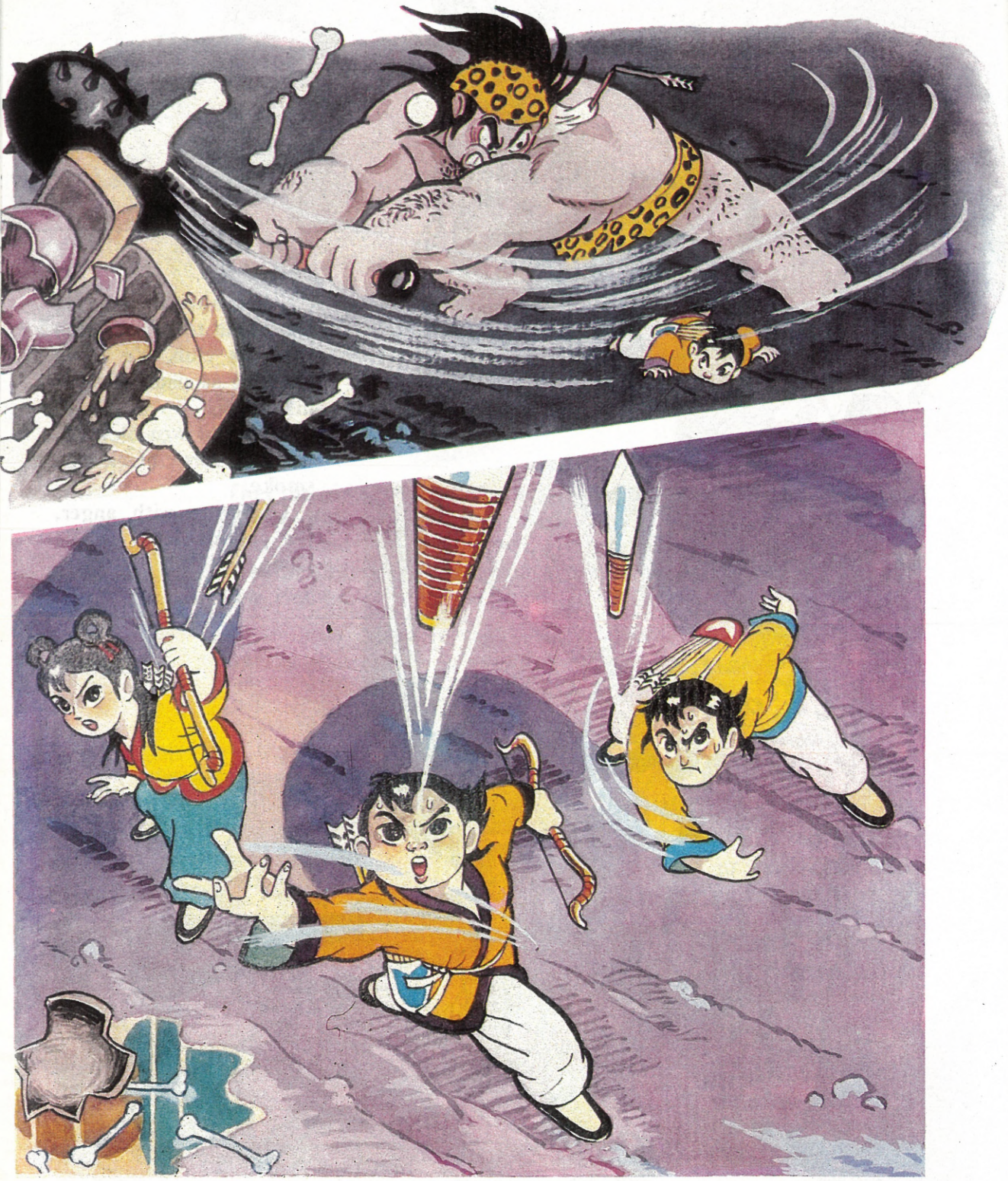
"What a vulgar girl! I'll make your spirit depart your body."

"I Pun, run away quickly," cried Sun Dol surprisingly from behind the lugguge boxes.

Just when the captain was about to strike I Pun with his club, Ye Dong shot the second arrow at his wen.

His right wen blew up, belching forth black-blue smoke.

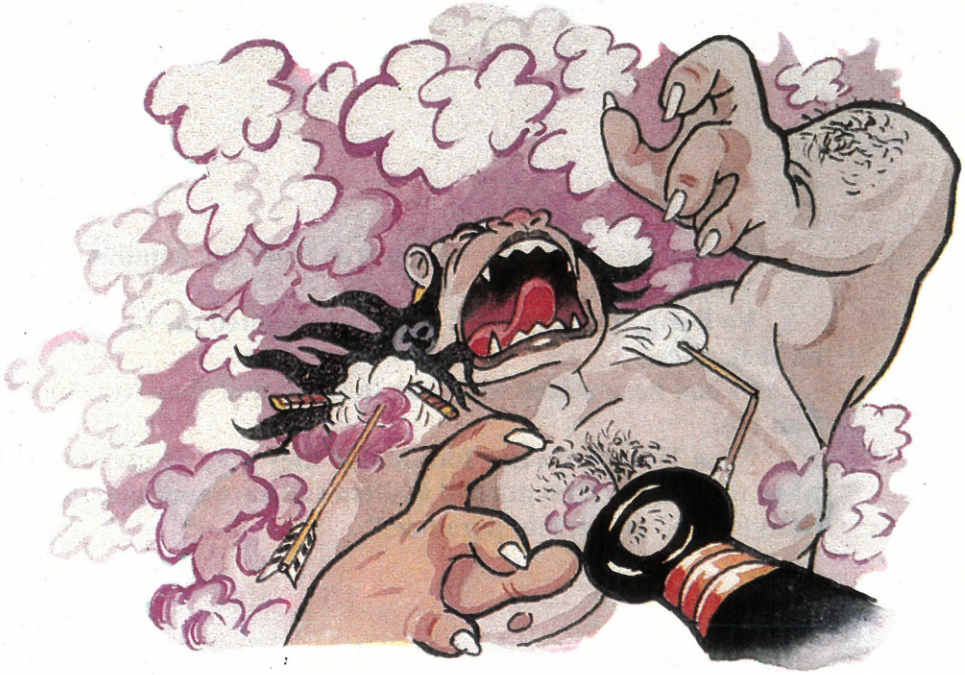
Quivering with anger, the captain leapt at Ye Dong.



Ye Dong watched for a chance to hit the left wen of the captain, dodging.

Sun Dol and I Pun, too, hiding themselves hither and thither, threw daggers and arrows at the captain.

At last the left wen burst, emitting fierce flames and the captain fell down, dejectedly dropping his club.



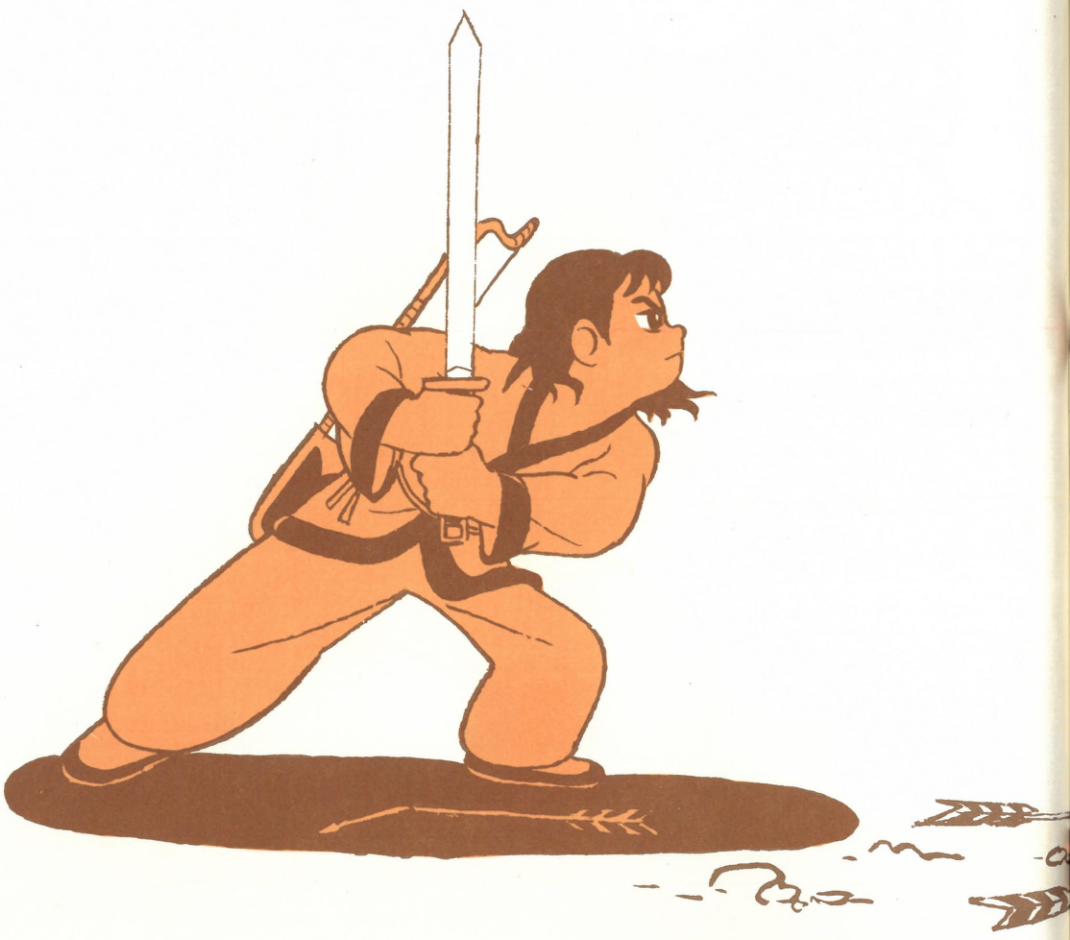
At the moment a loud battle cry was heard from the outside. Villagers killed the rest of the bandits.

The sun rose over the village free from the bandits.

Villagers danced for joy.

Ye Dong, Sun Dol and I Pun who mounted the ox wore a gentle smile on their faces.

"I had been seized with fear to think that they were monsters," said Sun Dol.

"Sun Dol, no matter formidable they are, we can defeat the enemy when we pool our strength and wisdom and have courage. Let's build up our village to be an earthly paradise."

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